

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the subject application. The Office Action of May 22, 2003 has been received and contents carefully reviewed.

By this Amendment, Applicants amend the Specification to cure minor editorial inconsistencies. No new matter has been added to the Specification. In addition, Applicants amend claims 1-3, 5 and 13-16, and add new claim 29. Accordingly, claims 1-29 are currently pending in the present application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14, 15, 17, 20, 22, 23, 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hatano et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,084,647) in view of Woodgate et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,917,562); rejected claims 3 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hatano et al. in view of Faris (U.S. Patent No. 6,133,980); rejected claims 6, 12, 18, 19, 21 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hatano et al. in view of Woodgate et al. and in further view of Shimoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,287,208); rejected claims 9 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hatano et al. in view of Woodgate et al. and in further view of Matsunaga et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,541,185). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claim 1 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 1 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "a liquid crystal polymer film having first and second micro-polarizing regions on an inner surface of the first substrate, the first micro-polarizing region having a first twist angle and the second micro-polarizing region having a second twist angle, wherein the liquid crystal polymer includes a chiral dopant, and the first twist angle is different from the second twist angle..." None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 and claims 2-13 and 29, which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiners' citation of Hatano et al. actually teaches away from the teaching of Woodgate et al. Hatano et al. teaches a reflective type LCD

device which requires a light reflection layer formed of metal (for example, 124 in Fig. 1) in the device. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that, when these two references are combined, the second polarizing plate on the outer surface of the second substrate does not function as it is intended due to the light reflection layer.

Claim 14 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 14 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "forming a liquid crystal polymer film on the second surface of the first substrate, wherein the liquid crystal polymer includes a chiral dopant; exposing a first micro-polarizing region of the liquid crystal polymer film to light with a first exposure condition, thereby the first micro-polarizing region having a first twist angle; exposing a second micro-polarizing region of the liquid crystal polymer film to light with a second exposure condition, thereby the second micro-polarizing region having a second twist angle, wherein the second twist angle is different from the first twist angle..." None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 14 and claims 15-28, which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner deems that a telephone conference would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number (202) 496 - 7500. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the

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filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

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